

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REPORT TO CSCE COMMISSION

REF: THOMS CHESTER TELCON JUNE 9

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS ON BERLIN AND GDR FROM SECOND
SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CSCE COMMISSION, DECEMBER 1, 1976
TO JUNE 1, 1977, AS REQUESTED BY EMBASSY, BONN:

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESENTS A REVIEW OF THE MAJOR INCIDENTS
AND ISSUES RELATED TO THE CSCE PRINCIPLES WHICH AROSE
DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. . .
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DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, THE GDR IMPLEMENTED A SERIES
OF MEASURES WHICH APPEARED DESIGNED TO BLUR LEGAL
DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN ITS OWN TERRITORY AND THAT OF EAST
BERLIN. THESE MEASURES INCLUDED REQUIRING VISAS FOR
ONE-DAY VISITS BY NON-GERMANS TO EAST BERLIN, REMOVING
CONTROL POINTS ON THE EAST BERLIN-GDR BOUNDARY, AND
ELIMINATING THE PROCEDURE UNDER WHICH GDR LAWS MUST BE
SEPARATELY ADOPTED BY BERLIN AUTHORITIES BEFORE
THEY CAN APPLY IN EAST BERLIN. THESE MEASURES WERE
INCONSISTENT WITH THE STATUS OF BERLIN AS CONFIRMED

IN THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1971,
TO WHICH THE FINAL ACT GIVES IMPLICIT RECOGNITION.
GIVEN THE SPECIAL NATURE OF WESTERN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN, HOWEVER, THESE ISSUES WERE HANDLED BY THE THREE WESTERN POWERS DIRECTLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AS QUADRIpartite MATTERS RATHER THAN IN THE CSCE CONTEXT. ON MAY 9, THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF BRITAIN, FRANCE, THE FRG AND THE US ISSUED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE STATING THAT ADHERENCE TO EXISTING AGREEMENTS ON BERLIN WAS ESSENTIAL TO "THE MAINTENANCE OF SECURITY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION THROUGHOUT EUROPE."

2. A "COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM AND SOCIALISM," ORGANIZED WITHIN THE GDR TO MONITOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTED THAT AT LEAST 50 PEOPLE WHO PROTESTED THE FORCED EXPATRIATION OF POET AND SINGER WOLF BIERMANN IN NOVEMBER HAD BEEN DETAINED BY POLICE AND SUBJECTED TO HARASSMENT. HOWEVER, LATER REPORTS INDICATED THAT THE GDR CHOSE TO AVOID A FULL-SCALE REPRESSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST WRITERS AND ARTISTS WHO PROTESTED THE BIERMANN OUSTER. MOST PROTESTERS WERE ALLOWED TO REMAIN ACTIVE IN THE ARTISTS AND WRITERS UNION, AND ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT PROTESTORS, AUTHOR RAINER KUNZE, TRAVELED TO AUSTRIA DURING UNCLASSIFIED

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FEBRUARY TO RECEIVE A LITERARY PRIZE. HE LATER EMIGRATED LEGALLY TO WEST GERMANY, CITING DIFFICULTIES IN CARRYING ON HIS WORK AS THE REASON FOR HIS DEPARTURE. SEVERAL OTHER DISSIDENTS HAVE ALSO EMIGRATED FROM THE GDR IN RECENT MONTHS...

MOST OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO VOICED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLE AND REJECTED EASTERN ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS...

A CONFERENCE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS IN APRIL CONCLUDED THAT PRESSING FOR RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WAS FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH DETENTE. FORMER CHANCELLOR WILLY BRANDT OF WEST GERMANY SAID IN SUMMING UP THE CONFERENCE THAT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHEREVER IN THE WORLD THEY OCCUR, SHOULD BE MET BY ADEQUATE ACTION.

3. THE WEST HAS A GOOD RECORD OF NOTIFICATION OF SMALLER MILITARY MANEUVERS...

THE UNITED STATES ON APRIL 7, 1977 MADE NOTIFICATION OF ITS EXERCISE "CERTAIN FIGHTER," A FIELD-TRAINING EXERCISE WHICH TOOK PLACE FROM MAY 1-8 IN HESSE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. 24,000 US PERSONNEL WERE

INVOLVED.

4. THE GDR'S RECORD OF PUBLISHING ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION HAS REMAINED POOR. THIS SITUATION MAY CHANGE ONCE THE PRIVATELY-SPONSORED JOINT US-GDR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL NOW BEING FORMED BEGINS ITS WORK. AN INITIAL PLENARY SESSION IS PLANNED FOR MID-JUNE IN WASHINGTON . . .

US EXPORTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA NEARLY TRIPLED AND TO THE GDR NEARLY QUADRUPLD BECAUSE OF GRAIN SHIPMENTS . . .

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WHILE IMPORTS FROM ALL THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INCREASED OVER 1975 LEVELS, IMPORTS FROM THE GDR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA FAILED TO REACH 1974'S PRERECESSION LEVELS. . .

IN MAY, THE GDR PRESENTED TO OUR EMBASSY SEVERAL PROPOSALS FOR EXPANDING TRADE AND COMMERCIAL TIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. MOST OF THE PROPOSALS, SUCH AS THE GDR REQUEST FOR MOST-FAVORED-NATION TARIFF STATUS, HAD BEEN MADE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER MATTERS WITH THE GDR ON A SYSTEMATIC BASIS.

5. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, THE US CONTINUED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO ALL OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES TO REQUEST FULFILLMENT OF CSCE OBLIGATIONS IN RESOLVING THE LONG-STANDING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES OF WHICH THE US GOVERNMENT IS AWARE. THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS OF SUCH PROBLEM CASES INVOLVING AT LEAST ONE PREVIOUS REFUSAL REMAINED PENDING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AS OF MAY 1, 1977:

GDR - IMMEDIATE FAMILIES: TOTAL CASES - 5
GDR - IMMEDIATE FAMILIES: INDIVIDUALS - 9
GDR - NONIMMEDIATE FAMILIES: TOTAL CASES - 24
GDR - NONIMMEDIATE FAMILIES: INDIVIDUALS - 42

6. IN ADDITION TO TOLERATING ARMENIAN EMIGRATION, SOVIET AUTHORITIES ALSO INCREASED THE NUMBER OF ETHNIC GERMANS ALLOWED TO RESETTLE IN THE FRG. THE 1976 TOTAL OF 9600 SIGNIFICANTLY REVERSED THE SLIGHT DOWNTURN IN 1975 AND MORE THAN TRIPLED THE 1972 LEVEL, AS SEEN IN THIS TABLE:

1972 - 3,100; 1973 - 4,400; 1974 - 6,300; 1975 - 5,800;
1976 - 9,600

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NONETHELESS, A GROUP OF ETHNIC GERMANS REFUSED EXIT VISAS PROTESTED THEIR PLIGHT IN AN ATTEMPTED DEMONSTRATION IN THE WEST GERMAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW IN MAY.

7. EMIGRATION CONTINUED TO BE AN ESPECIALLY VEXING PROBLEM FOR THE GDR, WHERE AN ESTIMATED 100,000 PEOPLE ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE APPLIED FOR PERMANENT EXIT VISAS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL ACT. APPARENTLY DISMAYED BY THIS TREND, THE GDR GOVERNMENT UNEXPECTEDLY REVIVED A 1963 REGULATION AND FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON JANUARY 11 DENIED EAST GERMANS ACCESS TO THE FRG MISSION IN EAST BERLIN. POLICE OFFICERS INFORMED PROSPECTIVE VISITORS THAT THE MISSION COULD NOT BE ENTERED WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE GDR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN THE EXCHANGES WHICH FOLLOWED, THE EAST GERMANS CLAIMED THAT THE FRG MISSION HAD BEEN VIOLATING THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND INTERFERING IN INTERNAL GDR AFFAIRS, IMPLICITLY BY ASSISTING GDR CITIZENS IN EMIGRATION PROCEDURES. THE FRG VIGOROUSLY DENIED CHARGES OF WRONGDOING AND MADE CLEAR ITS INTENT TO CONTINUE ADVISING INDIVIDUALS WHO VISIT THE MISSION FOR ASSISTANCE...

MOST GDR DIVIDED FAMILY CASES CONCERN EMIGRATION APPLICATIONS TO WEST GERMANY, AND THE NUMBER OF CASES INVOLVING THE US IS BY COMPARISON SMALL. NONETHELESS, WE PLACE HIGH PRIORITY ON RESOLUTION OF THESE CASES, AND SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD OUR EMBASSY IN BERLIN PRESENTED GDR OFFICIALS WITH UPDATED REPRESENTATION LISTS OF BOTH PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY REUNIFICATIONS STILL PENDING. IN APRIL, GDR OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD RESOLVE THESE CASES SHORTLY. THIS WAS REPEATED IN AN AIDE-MEMOIRE PRESENTED TO OUR EMBASSY ON MAY 12.

8. EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS FROM ROMANIA TO WEST
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GERMANY ROSE SHARPLY DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 BUT DECLINED IN THE SPRING.

9. AS OF MAY 1, THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS OF PROBLEM BINATIONAL MARRIAGE CASES WERE PENDING INVOLVING AMERICAN CITIZENS AND CITIZENS OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES:
GDR - 11.

10. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, THE MOST SERIOUS CONTRAVENTION OF CSCE PROVISIONS ON PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL OCCURRED ON DECEMBER 30 WHEN THE GDR ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF JANUARY 1 ALL NON-GERMAN VISITORS TO EAST BERLIN FROM WEST BERLIN WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HAVE VISAS, EVEN FOR ONE-DAY VISITS. PRE-

VIOUSLY SUCH VISAS HAD NOT BEEN REQUIRED OF VISITORS STAYING LESS THAN 24 HOURS. THIS MOVE WAS CONTRARY TO CSCE COMMITMENTS "TO SIMPLIFY AND TO ADMINISTER

FLEXIBLY THE PROCEDURES FOR EXIT AND ENTRY."

THE GDR ALSO CONTINUED ITS PRACTICE OF PERIODICALLY OBSTRUCTING TRAVELERS TO EAST BERLIN. SINCE EARLY 1977, FOR EXAMPLE, A LARGE NUMBER OF FORMER GDR RESIDENTS WHO HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY LEGALLY HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM VISITING EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR DESPITE POSSESSION OF PROPER DOCUMENTS. HUNDREDS OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN FILED WITH THE TRAVEL AND VISITS COMMISSION IN BERLIN. A NEW 10-MARK FEE ON PASSENGER CARS ENTERING EAST BERLIN IMPOSED BY THE GDR AT THE END OF FEBRUARY HAS ALSO SERVED TO COMPLICATE PROCEDURES FOR ENTRY.

11. IN JANUARY, FOR EXAMPLE, A SOVIET PRESS ARTICLE DENOUNCED AS "REACTIONARY" THE RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE BROADCASTING OF DEUTSCHE WELLE, THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (BBC) AND THE VOICE OF AMERICA (VOA) BECAUSE PROGRAMMING ALLEGEDLY RESTS IN THE HANDS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL EMIGRES FROM THE USSR. . .

IN EASTERN EUROPE, THE GDR EXPELLED A WEST GERMAN TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT IN DECEMBER AFTER ACCUSING HIM OF DEFAMING THE GDR. THIS FOLLOWED THE EXPULSION OF A "DER SPIEGEL" CORRESPONDENT EARLIER IN THE YEAR...

IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN FEBRUARY, CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES DETAINED AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS FROM NBC AND THE "NEW YORK TIMES." EACH WAS REMOVED FROM A TRAIN WHILE DEPARTING THE COUNTRY AND SEARCHED. EACH ALSO HAD PAPERS CONFISCATED. THE "NEW YORK TIMES" CORRESPONDENT WAS NOT PERMITTED TO CONTACT THE US EMBASSY. ONE OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED ON GDR, RATHER THAN CZECHOSLOVAK, TERRITORY, ALTHOUGH IT INVOLVED CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS. OUR EMBASSIES SUBSEQUENTLY LODGED VIGOROUS PROTESTS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK AND GDR AUTHORITIES AND TERMED SUCH TREATMENT OF JOURNALISTS UNACCEPTABLE. A WEST GERMAN CORRESPONDENT WAS SIMILARLY DETAINED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT A LATER DATE. . .

IN DECEMBER, THE GDR PROPOSED TO US THE RECIPROCAL ISSUEANCE OF ONE-YEAR MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISAS TO PERMANENTLY-ACCREDITED CORRESPONDENTS. WE REAFFIRMED OUR WILLINGNESS TO ISSUE SUCH VISAS AS SOON AS THE GDR LIFTED ITS, LONG-STANDING REFUSAL TO ACCREDIT US CORRESPONDENTS RESIDENT IN BONN AND WEST BERLIN.

12. WE HAVE PROPOSED THAT A US-GDR CULTURAL PROGRAM OF
RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES BE DEVELOPED, OUTLINING SPECIFIC

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE NEAR
FUTURE. THE INITIAL GDR RESPONSE TO THIS PROPOSAL HAS
BEEN POSITIVE. IF ACCEPTED, IT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY
ENHANCE THE PRESENTLY LIMITED EXPOSURE OF AMERICAN
ARTISTS IN EAST GERMANY. IN MID-MAY, THE GDR PROPOSED
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TO US FOR DISCUSSION SEVERAL OTHER AREAS OF CULTURAL
COOPERATION. THE US HAS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THIS
INITIATIVE AND DISCUSSIONS ON EXPANDED CULTURAL
EXCHANGES ARE UNDERWAY. . .

THE EAST GERMAN FILM ARCHIVES PRESENTED A WEEK-LONG
RETROSPECTIVE OF FILMS BY THE AMERICAN FILM PIONEER
D. W. GRIFFITH IN EAST BERLIN IN APRIL...

ARRANGEMENTS ARE ALSO PROCEEDING FOR A MAJOR EXHIBIT OF
WORKS FROM EAST GERMANY'S DRESDEN MUSEUM. THE EXHIBIT
IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN WASHINGTON, D.C. IN EARLY 1978...

IN APRIL, THE GDR DOUBLED ITS ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM
THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND EXCHANGES
BOARD, WHICH ARRANGES EXCHANGES BETWEEN AMERICAN AND
EASTERN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS. VANCE

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